

Stanford reveals CIA links

In a unique pair of press statements, released two weeks ago, and published in part here, Stanford University gives details of its behaviour-altering research funded by the Central Intelligence Agency

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Between 1953 and 1961 the Central Intelligence Agency covertly spent nearly \$390 000 on Stanford faculty research as part of its nationwide project MK-ULTRA "to identify materials and methods useful in altering human behaviour". Of this total, more than \$347 000 was paid through a foundation conduit for five university projects.

The first of these, running from May 1953 through January 1957, provided \$11 478 for "services as a contact and cut-out for projects in the MK-ULTRA field" to a "practising psychiatrist" on the Stanford medical faculty, which then was based in San Francisco. Personal diaries of the late George Hunter White, a former federal narcotics agent and CIA liaison, mention his drug experiments with Dr James Hamilton, a psychiatrist now retired from the Stanford clinical faculty in San Francisco. Dr Hamilton has declined to respond to numerous press inquiries.

The seven projects at Stanford were among 135 or more nationally. They included research on alcoholic intoxication, analysis of sedatives for Project Knockout, development work on a miniaturised lie detector, and a literature search on blood groupings, among others.

All involved Medical School faculty, mostly in the Division of Neurology. These activities declined sharply following the death of Professor Henry Newman, the division chairman, in 1959.

These broad, tentative conclusions emerge from a preliminary overview of more than 500 pages of CIA documents provided for the university at the request of President Richard Lyman. Received Friday, 23 September, they have been duplicated and made public.

The largest single project was a study of alcohol and tranquilisers originated by Newman. The CIA authorised \$147 255 for this during 1956-1960, apparently using a foundation conduit. This study was aimed, in part, "at permitting consumption of larger amounts of ethyl alcohol without an increase in nervous system depression"—in other words, how to be the last one drunk under the table. While Newman is not named, he was the only person to

have the titles used in correspondence on the project.

The second largest project was funded through the foundation for \$114 373 from 1957 to 1961. Its objective was "fundamental information" necessary for "a highly potent, quick-acting substance that will render an individual helpless and immobile, preferably in an unconscious state". Part of Project Knockout, it included study of the sedative effects of certain species of ticks.

While the "cut-out and cover" organisation was editorially obliterated, one internal memo boasted that "(blank) will monitor and direct and actively participate as principal investigator. . . . Arrangements have been made for his appointment".

During 1957-1958 MK-ULTRA used the foundation conduit for \$42 065 in research "on the neurophysiological and pharmacological effects on central nervous system antagonists and synergists". Its objectives included participation in clinical testing and evaluation of drugs useful in resisting interrogation.

On this and several other projects, investigators had "top secret" clearance and signed a standard "memorandum of agreement" with CIA. This states, in part: "I solemnly pledge my word that I will never divulge, publish, or reveal either by word, conduct, or by any other means such information or knowledge (gained from research) . . . unless specifically authorised to do so."

The CIA documents show the agency also spent \$41 382 for development of three miniaturised lie detectors at Stanford, using the foundation as conduit. Results of the 1958-1959 project in the Division of Neurology were assessed as "satisfactory".

In describing the qualifications of the initial, direct payment operative in 1953, an internal memo said he had served as chief neuropsychiatrist at one institution, chief of the psychiatric section at another, and had Second World War experience with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a CIA predecessor. This accurately describes Hamilton. The CIA records show this individual was directly reimbursed for payments to five informants during 1956 totalling \$1680.

Who was the CIA agent at Stanford?

Two Stanford researchers expressed shock and surprise Monday, 27 September, on learning that their work during the late 1950s had been covertly sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency. Dr Marion Smith, now an adjunct professor of neurology, and Dr William Hofmann, associate professor of neurology, both said they were certain that their colleague, Dr Wallace Lane Chan, had served as the CIA's liaison at Stanford.

Contacted at the Norwood-Foxboro Health Clinic in Massachusetts, Chan flatly denied having worked for the CIA while at Stanford, either directly or indirectly. He said he had been employed by the agency overseas from 1953 to 1957.

At a campus news conference, Smith said it was common knowledge that her studies of alcohol absorption, conducted with the late Dr Henry Newman, had been funded by the Geschickter Fund for Medical Research, Inc. This has been publicly identified by its founder in US Senate hearings as a CIA conduit. Hofmann, who succeeded Newman as acting head of the neurology division in 1959, said he was "quite shocked" to learn about the CIA involvement and had "worried about Chan" years ago.

Chan said he didn't remember Smith, but he replied affirmatively when asked if he and the late Dr Windsor Cutting were studying "the neurophysiological and pharmacological

effects of central nervous system antagonists and synergists". These words are identical to those used in an internal CIA document to describe a project conducted at Stanford as part of the CIA's Project MK-ULTRA.

In a file memo, Sidney Gottlieb, CIA's director of technical services, noted that a separate MK-ULTRA project subsequently led to the direct payments of \$28 800 to an unidentified assistant clinical professor of medicine at Stanford between September 1957 and June 1961, mostly in the form of cashier's checks for \$800 per month. This period corresponds with Chan's employment at Stanford in that field at that rank. He vigorously denied having requested or received such funds.

The unnamed individual's responsibilities included monitoring the Newman studies on alcohol and the pharmacology project. Chan confirmed his involvement in both projects to Stanford News Service and told *The San Francisco Chronicle* he knew Gottlieb.

At the news conference, Smith said the source of funds for the alcohol studies was "never very clear", although Newman had indicated it was government sponsored when he employed her. Smith said she was told there were "practically unlimited funds available to work on anything concerning the rate of alcohol metabolism. I was happy to have a job, to do what I wanted, and get published a lot".

B.B.